



THE HONOURABLE NEIL C. WITTMANN
CHIEF JUSTICE

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COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH OF ALBERTA

February 25, 2014

Linda Hallworth
President, Alberta Shorthand Reporters Association
12425 – 28A Avenue
Edmonton AB T6J 4L5
Email: linda.hallworth@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Hallworth:

RE: Off-The-Record Discussions during Civil Questioning

I acknowledge receipt of your correspondence of January 22nd, 2014 and confirm that during civil Questioning all counsel present must agree to go “off-the-record”. If there is a refusal by one party of the other party’s request, this results in an objection that requires a ruling which will ultimately be made pursuant to the *Alberta Rules of Court*.

If an objection is made to going “off-the-record” the Questioning should be adjourned on the point at issue and the rest of the Questioning proceeded with until concluded. If the point is material to an area of Questioning, it should be specified by the party adjourning for the ruling.

With respect to the reporter, he or she should continue to transcribe the dialogue until a consensus is achieved or the point is clearly on the record for a ruling.

You may distribute copies of this confirmation of direction to the members of your Association in order that they may refer to this letter when this situation arises.

Yours truly,

Neil C. Wittmann

/cmu

cc: Associate Chief Justice J.D. Rooke